GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1764
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
PRICES AND AVAILABILITY OF GENERIC MEDICINES
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a)whether prices and availability of generic medicines would automatically improve if excise tariff on generic/pharmacopeial essential medicines is reduced in comparison to branded medicines as in the past;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)the details of recommendations of Hathi Committee on pharmaceutical industry to phase out branded medicines with generic medicines;

(d)the reasons for not taking any action in the matter; and

(e)the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Hathi Committee in the public interest?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a)to(e): A Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Industry under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi was constituted on 8-2-1974 to examine various facets of the Drug Industry in India with a view to promoting growth of the Drug Industry. The Committee submitted its report in April 1975 and recommended, inter-alia, abolition of brand names in a phased manner and procurement of single ingredient drugs and drugs included in Indian Pharmacopoeia for Central and State Government Institutions and local bodies under generic names. Government laid a Statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29 March, 1978 containing its decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. Later this came to be known as Drug Policy, 1978.